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SOURCE Ta Kung Pao.

PROGRESS ON SOUTH TUNG-T'ING HU RECTIFICATION PROJECT

[Summary: The South Tung-t'ing Hu Rectification Construction Project on which work was begun in December is now employing 200,000 peasant laborers. Seven of the projected 13 cut-off dams designed to separate the waters of the Tzu Chiang and Hsiang Chiang and to prevent flooding of the lowlands between the two rivers, have been completed. Building of new dikes and repair and enlarging of old dikes is going forward rapidly and the 1952 - 1953 phase of the project is expected to be finished by mid-March.

A sketch map of the area is appended.]

Two hundred thousand workmen are swarming over the various parts of the South Tung-t'ing Hu Rectification Construction Project that will protect from floods an area that produces one sixth of the rice crop of Hunan Province.

In preparation for the arrival and maintenance of this force of workmen, some 200 million catties of grain and supplies had to be assembled. This required the services of 1,500 small boats, 22 steamers, and several hundred barges.

The chief features of this first stage of the program are (1) shutting off a large number of anastomotic streams forming a network connecting the Tzu Chiang on the west and north sides of the area, and the Hsiang Chiang on the east side and (2) the building of several important new protective dikes. Some 13 cut-off dams are under construction involving the movement of 2,021,400 cubic meters of earth, and 19,400 cubic meters of stone. In the past, this network of streams flowing across low-lying rice lands has overflowed when the large rivers were at high-water stage. In the future, these streams are expected to dry up gradually and the cultivated areas they now separate can then be joined.

Below Kan-ch'i-chiang, the Tzu Chiang will be confined to three main channels, two of them leading directly into the South Tung-t'ing Hu and the third joining the Hsiang Chiang at Lin Tzu-k'ou, thus eventually entering the main Tung-t'ing Hu.

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The present phase of the project involves the building of 56.42 kilometers of new dikes and the repair of 63.41 kilometers of old dikes. In addition to the above construction under the immediate direction of the South Tung-t'ing Hu Rectification Construction Project Committee of the provincial government, 132.6 kilometers of dikes in the area will be repaired under the direction of local authorities, for a grand total of 252.68 kilometers.

The most important and largest single piece of new dike construction of the Rectification Construction Project is the new dike to be built enclosing the northeastern portion of the Rectification Construction Project area, starting at a point northeast of Ta-chiang-tzu and running eastward, crossing several lakes and muddy swamps. After passing Huang-t'u-lun and Fu-chia-shan, the dike swings southward past Tseng-chia-t'ai, then southwest to a point a little northeast of Lin-tzu-k'ou where it connects with the old dike. The total length of this dike is 19.9 kilometers. It ranges from 8 to 9 meters in height and is 6 meters broad on top. This dike is expected to bear the brunt of flood waters coming from the Tung-t'ing Hu.

One other type of structure included in the program is an eight-gate reinforced concrete drainage lock, 12 meters high and 32 meters long. It will be located near Hsin-ch'uan-ssu and will be used as needed to release flood water from the flat ricelands in the Lan-ni Hu area into a tributary of the Hsiang Chiang.

One result of the Rectification Construction Project is to provide three protected areas known as safety pockets. The largest of these is the Lan-ni Hu area between the Tzu Chiang and the Hsiang Chiang. All the anastomotic streams in this area that have formerly carried flood waters from both the above rivers into the area will be cut off from their connection with those rivers and the farmers will be spared the flood menace that has heretofore threatened them.

The second of these safety pockets lies between the central and northeastern branches of the Tzu Chiang [from Mao-chiao-k'ou on the south to Huang-t'u-lun on the north]. This is the area protected on the north and northeast by the new 19.9-kilometer dike.

The third safety pocket is the area lying between the central and western branches of the Tzu Chiang [from Kan-ch'i-chiang on the southwest to Feng-shu-t'ang on the northeast]. Near the northeast corner of this area, a new dike has to be built through an area where there is one meter of soft mud covered by 3 meters of water.

Seven of the 13 projected cut-off dams have already been completed, namely those of Liu-chia Hu [not indicated on original of sketch map], Ta-t'an-k'ou, Kao-tzu Hu, Hsiao-ho-k'ou, San-li-ch'iao, I-p'o-t'ang, and Tz'u-hu-k'ou. The whole project is expected to be finished in the spring before the spring season high water on the Hsiang Chiang.

This project is of great economic value. In the first place, the length of dikes to be kept up will be reduced from 816 kilometers to 361.67 kilometers. Secondly, only 75 kilometers of hazardous dikes will remain. Thirdly, 52,000 shih mou [one shih mou equals 0.1647 acre] of arable land will be added to the flood-free area for a total of 780,000 shih mou, capable of an annual production of 389 million catties of paddy rice.

Year by year in the past, the flood waters from the Yangtze River coming down through the Tung-t'ing Hu and the flood waters of the Tzu Ho, Hsiang Ho, Yuan Ho, and Li Ho have flooded or threatened to flood all this area. After the completion of this project, these rivers, more closely confined to their channels, will scour out and lower their beds with resulting benefit to shipping, flood control, and drainage. The Lan-ni Hu area, south of the Tzu Chiang, is expected to become a broad fertile plain.

[Appended sketch map follows.]

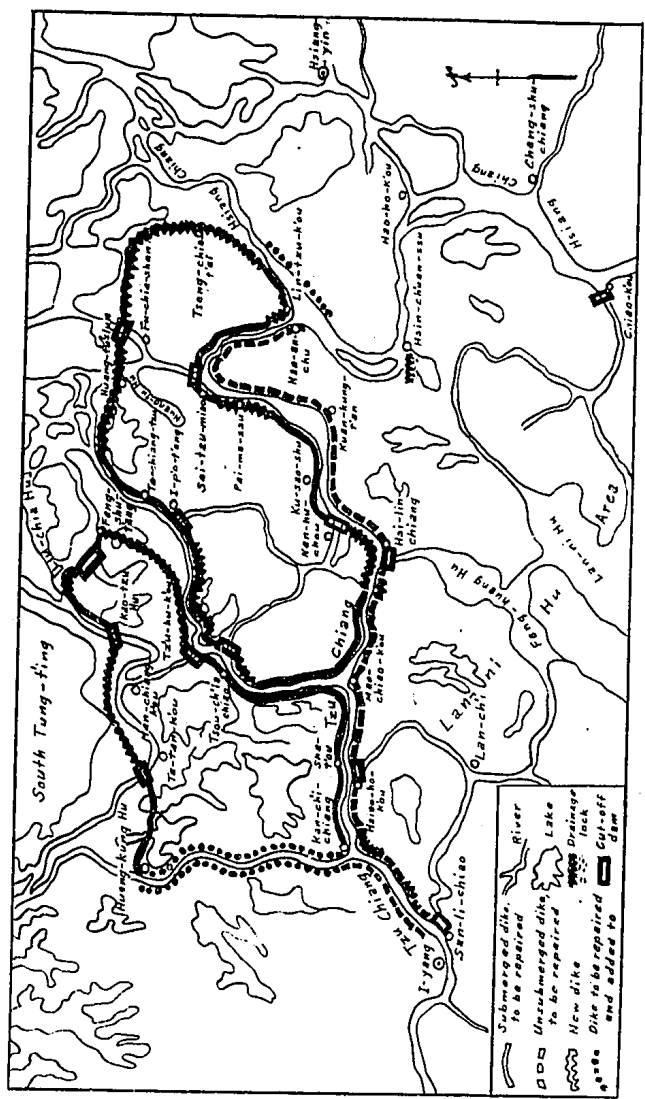
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MAP ILLUSTRATING SOUTH TUNG-T'ING HU RECTIFICATION CONSTRUCTION PROJECT



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